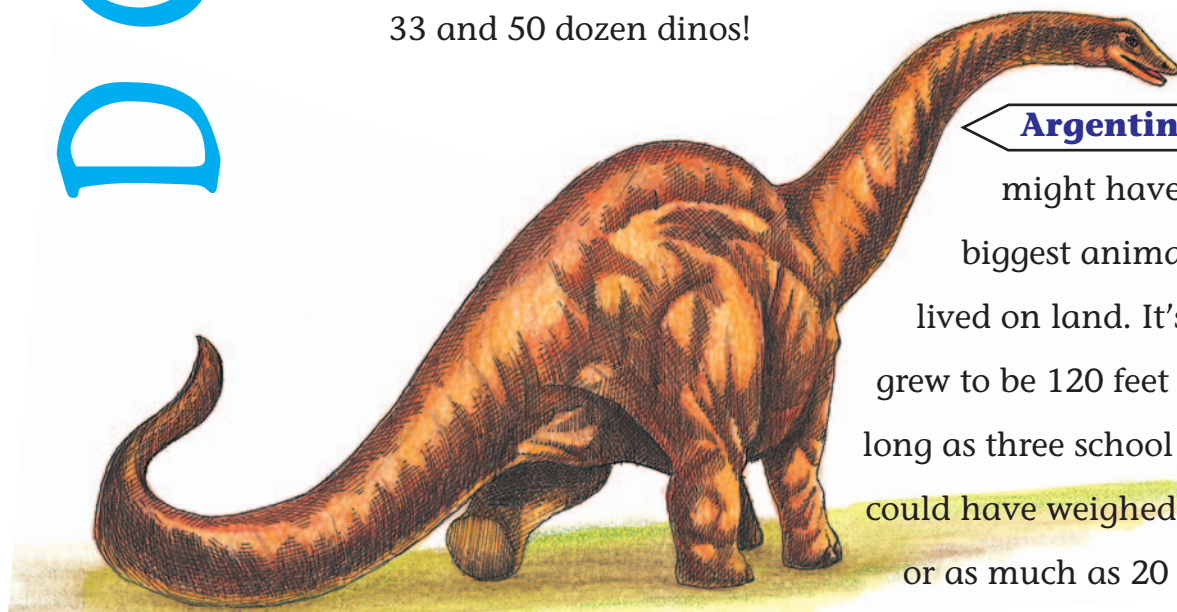


DOZENS OF DINOS

Millions of years ago, dinosaurs ruled Earth. It was so long ago that there were no humans, no cats, and no dogs. Dinosaurs came in all shapes and sizes. They lived almost everywhere—in fact, their fossils have been found on every continent, Africa, Asia, Europe, Antarctica, Australia, North America, and South America.

Depending on whom you ask, between 400 and 600 different dinosaurs have been discovered and named. That's between 33 and 50 dozen dinos!



Argentinosaurus

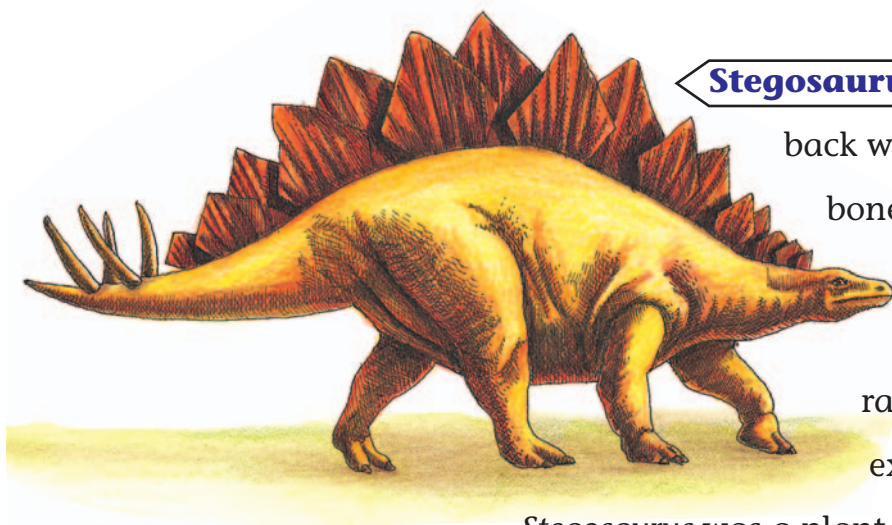
might have been the biggest animal that ever lived on land. It's possible it grew to be 120 feet long, or as long as three school buses. It could have weighed 100 tons, or as much as 20 elephants.

Argentinosaurus's bones

have been found in South America.

Measuring Up





Stegosaurus is a famous dinosaur. Its back was covered with thin plates of bone. Scientists think that the plates may have been used to warm and cool the animal, like a radiator. The spikes on its tail were excellent weapons for self-defense.

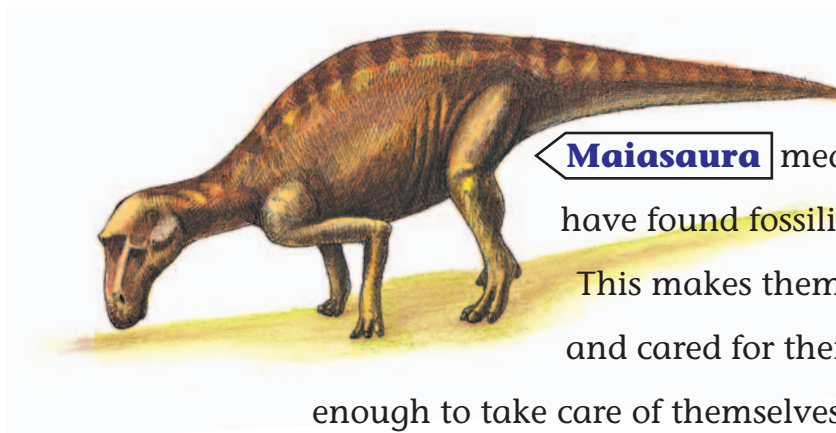
Stegosaurus was a plant eater.

Compsognathus

is one of the smallest dinosaurs known. It was about as big as a turkey or a large chicken, but don't be fooled by its small size. Scientists think it was a fierce predator, hunting other animals for food.

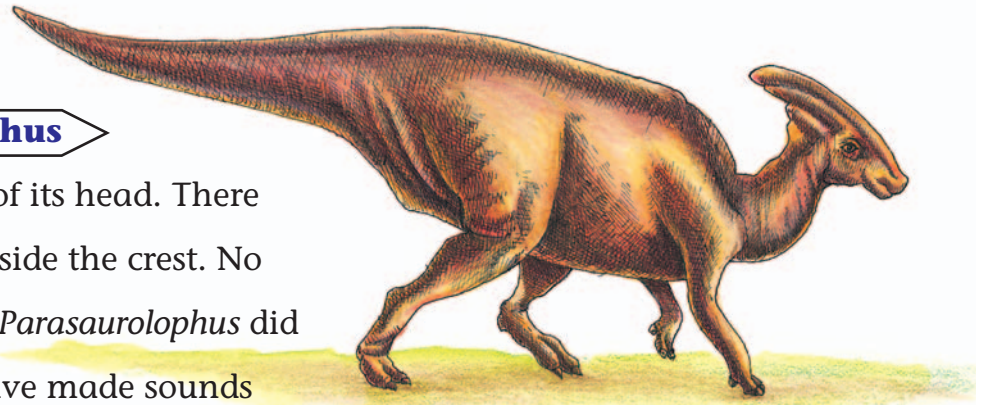


Maiasaura means "good mother lizard." Scientists have found fossilized *Maiasaura* eggs, babies, and nests. This makes them think that *Maiasaura* mothers fed and cared for their babies until they were strong enough to take care of themselves.



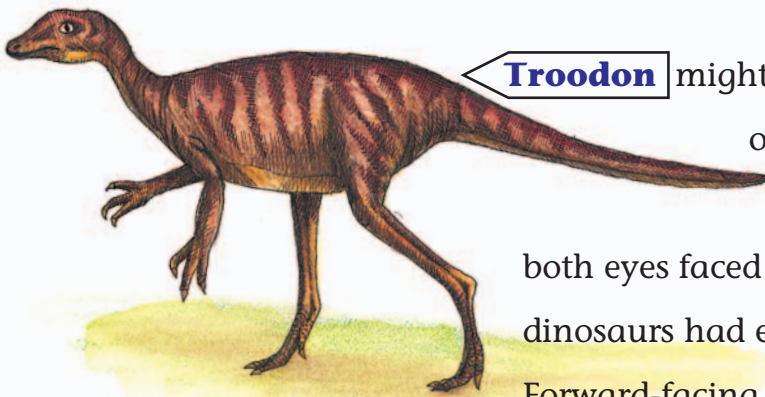
Parasaurolophus

had a huge crest on top of its head. There were two hollow tubes inside the crest. No one knows exactly what *Parasaurolophus* did with its crest. It might have made sounds with it, possibly to signal other animals.



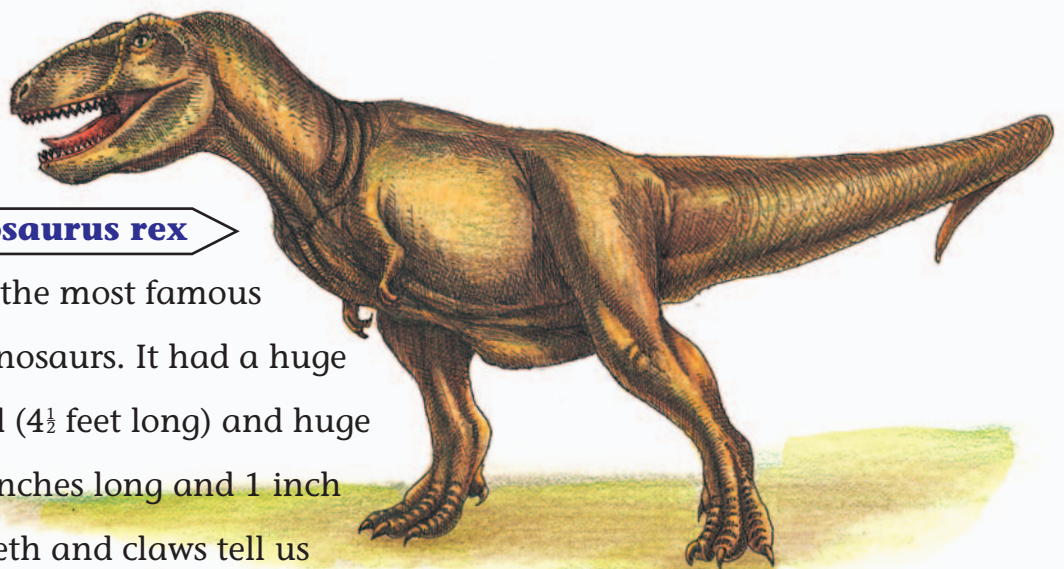
Troodon

might have been the smartest dinosaur of all. It had a large brain for a dinosaur. It had large eyes, and both eyes faced forward—as people’s eyes do. (Most dinosaurs had eyes that faced out toward the sides.) Forward-facing eyes help animals hunt. *Troodon* was probably a good hunter.



Tyrannosaurus rex

is perhaps the most famous of dinosaurs. It had a huge head (4½ feet long) and huge teeth (6 inches long and 1 inch wide). Its teeth and claws tell us *T. rex* was a meat eater.



Adapted from an article by Mike Weinstein
Illustrated by Kirsten Guerin